

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ITFE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 SAM-01

IO-10 ( ISO ) W

----- 121644

R 121031Z NOV 75

FM AMBMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4120

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, PINT, CB

SUBJ: LIFE IN CAMBODIA

1. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A TRICKLE OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN THAILAND DAILY, BUT NO LARGE MOVEMENTS. RTG ESTIMATES THERE ARE 12,957 CAMBODIANS CURRENTLY IN COUNTRY. (NOTE THAT THIS IS A LOWER FIGURE THAN EARLIER OFFICIAL ESTIMATES IN THE 19,000 RANGE; THE RTG HAS REMOVED ETHNIC THAI PREVIOUSLY LIVING INSIDE CAMBODIA FROM THE ROLLS.)

2. FAIRLY TYPICAL OF THE STORIES RECOUNTED BY NEW ARRIVALS IS THIS DESCRIPTION OF LIFE BY A FAMILY OF SEVEN PERSONS WHO REACHED PONG NAM RON (CHANTHABURI PROVINCE) AT THE END OF OCTOBER IN AN EMACIATED STATE. PREVIOUSLY WORKING IN PAILIN, THEY WERE MOVED AT THE FALL OF CAMBODIA TO AN AREA 16KM SE OF THAT CITY, WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FARMING EVER SINCE. THEY SAID LIFE IS TERRIBLE, WITH NO RICE LEFT TO EAT AT ALL.

THEY ARE FED RICE HUSKS. EXECUTIONS ARE BECOMING FREQUENT AGAIN, PARTICULARLY OF ANYONE WITH EDUCATION. THEY NOTED

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THAT EXECUTIONS OFTEN OCCUR FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FOOD TO GO AROUND.

3. THE FAMILY CONTINUED THAT, AFTER WORKING IN THE FIELDS ALL DAY, THE KC STRICTLY CONTROL THE PEOPLE AND DO NOT PERMIT SOCIALIZING AT NIGHT; EVERYONE JUST GOES TO BED. AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK A KC MILITARY TYPE WITH THE TITLE OF SOMETHING AKIN TO VILLAGE LEADER ORGANIZES A SESSION TO EXPLAIN WHAT COMMUNISM IS. THE MILITARY PREFER THAT THE POPULATION REFERS TO THEM AS THE LIBERATION FORCES. FINALLY, THE FAMILY REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE SEEN NO FOREIGNERS SINCE THE FALL OF CAMBODIA.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MINOR VARIATIONS, THE ABOVE IS THE USUAL STORY ONE NOW HEARS FROM REFUGEES WHO HAVE HAD A VERY LIMITED PERSPECTIVE FOR THE PAST 7-8 MONTHS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 NOV 1975  
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